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C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 001607

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/22/2014

TAGS: [TRGY](#) [TSPL](#) [TNGD](#) [ENRG](#)

SUBJECT: IRISH ON ITER: "THE COMMISSION HAS THE LEAD"

REF: STATE 223994

Classified By: Political-Economic Counselor Mary Daly, reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

1. (C) On October 22, Post delivered reftel talking points regarding the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) to James McIntyre, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Counsellor for EU External Relations. McIntyre said that the Irish were not directly involved in negotiations among the ITER parties on the future location of the reactor, as EU Member States had given the Commission a mandate to negotiate on their behalf. He noted that the Commission would reiterate its commitment to the six-party framework at the parties' meeting in Vienna, now delayed beyond October 23. He added, however, that the Commission would work to maintain full international participation in the project in the context of the decision to be taken at the November 25 meeting of the EU Council (Competitiveness). McIntyre could not predict whether the Commission would respond favorably to Japan's "host/non-host" offer, but he pointed out that the EU appreciated Japan's willingness to discuss project costs and management before the location issue had been finalized.

KENNY